



## HIV Prevention Science Agenda

### Background

In 1996, the Report of the NIH AIDS Research Program Evaluation Task Force (“Levine Report”) recommended that the National Institutes of Health (NIH), through the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), develop a coordinated and comprehensive HIV Prevention Science Agenda that includes and combines biomedical, behavioral, and social interventions. While the Levine Report recognized the role of vaccine research in a comprehensive HIV prevention agenda, it addressed vaccine research and development with a separate set of recommendations. To bring greater attention to the non-vaccine components of prevention, the Levine Report recommended that OAR convene an external advisory group and appoint an HIV Prevention Science Coordinator to develop a framework and operational definition of non-vaccine HIV prevention science, to identify gaps and opportunities in the NIH portfolio, and to identify funding priorities in HIV prevention science.

### HIV/AIDS-Related Research Program

Further information about the NIH/OAR HIV Prevention Science Agenda, including more specific details about the Prevention Science Working Group and the Prevention Science Initiative, may be obtained from the OAR.

Please contact:

Judith D. Auerbach, Ph.D.  
Prevention Science Coordinator  
Office of AIDS Research  
Office of the Director  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 2, Room 4E30  
Two Center Drive, MSC 0255  
Bethesda, MD USA 20892  
301-402-3555  
301-496-4843 FAX  
auerbacj@od.nih.gov

## Prevention Science Working Group

- In response to these recommendations, the OAR established the HIV Prevention Science Working Group (PSWG), which is comprised of 15 academic researchers, public health scientists, and community representatives and includes liaison members from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The PSWG is chaired by a distinguished prevention scientist—currently Dr. Don C. Des Jarlais, Director of Research at the Beth Israel Medical Center Chemical Dependency Institute in New York—and the OAR Prevention Science Coordinator serves as its Executive Secretary.
- The charge to the PSWG is to assist the OAR and NIH in identifying opportunities, priorities, and gaps in non-vaccine HIV prevention science and developing and implementing a research agenda to address them. The PSWG meets periodically throughout the year for these purposes.

## Prevention Science Framework

- The NIH HIV prevention science agenda, as developed with the advice of the PSWG, is informed by a number of **principles**. The agenda aims to:
  - be comprehensive and multidisciplinary (biomedical and behavioral/social science);
  - be driven by epidemiology and the state of scientific knowledge;
  - simultaneously consider population, mode of transmission, and social level targeted;
  - include both basic and intervention research;
  - focus on primary prevention, but also address secondary prevention;
  - be both domestic and international in its orientation.
- Within this framework, **on-going prevention science areas** include:
  - Risk Factors and Mechanisms of HIV Transmission
  - Interventions to Reduce HIV Transmission
  - Biological and Behavioral Factors That Influence HIV Disease Progression
  - Negative Psychosocial Consequences of HIV

## HIV Prevention Science Initiative

- To promote the development of the comprehensive, multidisciplinary HIV prevention science agenda and to address gaps and opportunities in the NIH portfolio in a timely fashion, the OAR Director established the HIV Prevention Science Initiative (PSI) in 1997. Working through the NIH Institutes and Centers, the PSI supports new grants, grant supplements, contracts, workshops, conferences, and meetings that address a set of HIV prevention science priorities identified by the OAR Director with the advice of the PSWG. These projects are in addition to those HIV prevention research activities already being supported by the NIH Institutes

and Centers. Over the past 4 years, the PSI has provided additional funding in the following priority areas:

- The Impact of New Drug Therapies on HIV Transmission
- Biobehavioral Strategies to Prevent Perinatal HIV Transmission
- Prevention Methods for Women
- Comprehensive HIV Prevention Strategies for Injection Drug Users
- HIV Prevention Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Relationship Between Biological and Behavioral Outcomes
- International HIV Prevention Research

Further information about the NIH AIDS research program in general may be found on the OAR Web site: [www.nih.gov/od/oar](http://www.nih.gov/od/oar).

**Further Information**

